

'NO ILLITERACY IN KENTUCKY IN 1920'

Slogan of Mrs. Cora Wilson Stewart, Founder of Moonlight School Movement, Who Visits Lexington.

In the ninth year of her volunteer services for the redemption of Kentucky from the blight of illiteracy, Mrs. Cora Wilson Stewart, president of the Kentucky Illiteracy Commission who was in Lexington last night, expects to see 100,000 adults taught to read and write and made masters of the rudiments of arithmetic.

This gigantic task, for which the commission is planning a gigantic campaign, will bring Kentucky up to the next Federal census year free from illiteracy, and that has been the aim of the commission since its inception—"No Illiteracy in Kentucky in 1920."

For eight years, since she inaugurated the moonlight schools in Rowan county, when she was county superintendent, Mrs. Stewart has been giving her services free to the cause.

No Illiteracy in 1920.

During those eight years she has enlisted 10,000 school teachers and thousands of others, who have taught 100,000 illiterates, she has won recognition of the work from school au-

thorities; the backing of the General Assembly and started a nation-wide movement that is expected to gain impetus from the menace of Bolshevism reaching out from Europe.

Already twenty-eight States are imitating Kentucky, some of them endeavoring to emulate Kentucky's ambition to have no illiterates when the next Federal census is taken.

It was a small beginning in Rowan county, but the foundation for the work was well laid, and proof of its practical value has been multiplying as each year added its thousands to the roll of the redeemed.

According to Mrs. Stewart, illiterate parents are not interested in sending their children to school. Parents who can read and write do not rear illiterate children, and the moonlight schools everywhere have increased the average attendance of day schools.

Besides this, agents of the Illiteracy Commission act as attendance officers. Visiting the homes they induce parents to send their children to school. This is part of their duty. The truant officer will go when the Illiteracy Commission expires by limitation in 1920.

The 1919 campaign includes a general educational revival and a permanent truant officer along with the eradication of illiteracy.

Mrs. Stewart said she believes the instructing of the remaining 100,000 in Kentucky in one year will be no more difficult than the pioneer work of the last eight years.

Agents in Every County.

All the various agencies co-operating with the commission will work at one time. Just now the commission is making a list of illiterate registrants, which will be placed in the hands of county agents. There will be an agent in every county this year.

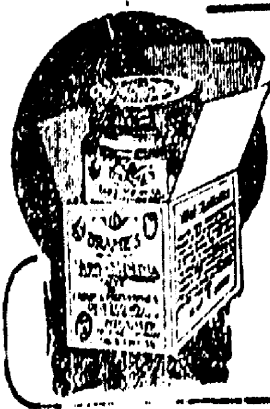
Illiteracy work has been done in every county in the past, but not all of them have had agents.

The Federation of Women's Clubs, pledged to enlist 100,000 women to teach, the public school teachers, backbone of the organization; traveling salesmen, who have done notable propaganda work for the cause; colleges; volunteers who have taught jail prisoners; bankers, who have encouraged illiterate depositors to learn, and soldier workers, all will take part in the big campaign.

In April a conference of leaders in the work will be held at Frankfort, at which time final plans will be adopted. In June the agents will hold a conference here, and they will be in the counties assigned them in July.

Just before the schools open in August an intensive speaking campaign of one week will be held. Mrs. Stewart promises that leading men of the nation and noted platform orators will tour Kentucky, speaking in practically every county in behalf of the movement.

"As the time approaches for fulfillment of our aim to have no illiteracy in Kentucky in 1920, the nation will be watching Kentucky," said Mrs. Stewart.



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